**Prices of Stainless Steel and Aluminium ingots**

*51. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Steel Authority of India have recently announced substantial reduction in the price of stainless steel; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the factors attributable to the said reduction;

(c) whether it is also a fact that subsequently Government have increased the prices of EC grade aluminium ingots and rods; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The reduction effected in April, 1990 in the prices of certain grades of Stainless Steel vary from Rs. 2, 000 to Rs. 9, 000 per tonne.

(b) The factors leading to this are:
(i) Revised customs duty structure resulting in reduced landed costs of input raw materials; and (ii) Response to competition both from domestic producers as well as imports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Refurbishing of Ashoka Group of Hotels**

*52. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a programme for refurbishing the Ashoka Group of hotels; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to achieve and maintain parity with other hotels in the highly competitive industry, ITDC undertook a major refurbishing 3 year programme of its hotels in May 1989. As per this programme, renovations of the following ten hotels were planned during 1980—90:

1. Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi
2. Samrat Hotel, New Delhi
3. Qutab Hotel, New Delhi
4. Kanishka Hotel, New Delhi
5. Janpath Hotel, New Delhi
6. Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi
7. Ashok Yatri Niwas, New Delhi
8. Hotel Ashok, Bangalore
9. Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi
10. Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna.

The work of renovations was started in phases during 1989-90 in the summer season, which is the weak sales season in the hotel industry. In all, 664 rooms and attached baths were undertaken for renovations in the above mentioned ten hotels during 1989-90 and have since been completed at a cost of Rs. 981 lakhs. Besides guest rooms, the renovations include public areas and F&B outlets like lobby, banquet halls, coffee shops/ restaurants. In addition, the refurbishing programme provides for augmentation/ replacement of essential equipment, plant and machinery as an added facility.

During 1990-91, ITDC proposes to take up the refurbishing programme in phases, in 25 hotels at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1055 lakhs.